

## Miscellaneous.

**WARE CHURCH.—MAINTENANCE OF KIND FEELING.**—On Saturday evening last the workmen engaged in the restoration of St. Mary's Church, Ware, sixty in number, by direction of the churchwardens, were regaled with a supper in the large room at the Saracen's Head Inn, the resting-place of the "great bed." The chair was taken by Mr. Innes, the clerk of the works, supported by Mr. Carter, the contractor, Mr. Beedle, the mason, and several respectable inhabitants of the town. After the usual loyal toasts, the Chairman proposed the health of the Rev. J. W. Blakesley, the vicar, and also that of the churchwardens, and called the attention of the men to the thoughtfulness and good feeling of those gentlemen in providing for them that evening. The health of the architect was then proposed, and warmly drunk. The health of the chairman was then drunk, with an admission that while he had performed his duties as clerk of the works with strictness, he had behaved with consideration and courtesy towards those with whom his office had brought him into connection. Then came the health of Mr. Carter, the contractor, who, in spite of the work turning out heavier than he had anticipated, had used every exertion to carry out his contract duly. The health of the workmen followed, with praises of their general good conduct, and at twelve o'clock the National Anthem was heartily sung, and the men separated with fresh spirit to continue their work.

**THE ASSYRIAN MARBLES.**—It is with infinite regret we have to state, says the *Literary Gazette*, that the cases of Assyrian sculpture, &c., which have reached the British Museum from Nimroud, *vis* Bombay, have suffered so much in their transit as to have greatly impaired the value of some, and utterly destroyed the usefulness and interest of others. The whole are in bad or ruined condition, and obliged to be placed at once in skilful hands to amend and restore what is possible. The drawers, generally, had been so carelessly packed with stone and glass, or vitrified substances and alabaster, mixed together, that the latter two frailer materials have been, in many instances, broken to pieces, or ground into dust. The destruction in this respect is irreparable. The ivory subjects and carved stones and inscriptions, though mutilated, are not so fatally lost; and when they are cleared of the mud and dirt in which they were found by Mr. Layard, and forwarded to England, will, we trust, lead us to a more certain knowledge of this ancient-world people and their arts and histories. We presume that several weeks must elapse before the antiquities can be in a fit state to be shown to the public. It is lamentable to think that, after having been preserved by Mother Earth for three thousand years, they should have been brought to the sight of day only to perish.

**COMPETITION.**—**ST. EDWARD'S, ROMFORD.**—The rebuilding of the parish church of St. Edward, Romford, will be commenced early next spring. It is to be built in the decorated style, to contain 1,100 persons, at a cost of 6,000*l.*, from the designs of Mr. Johnson, architect. The plan was selected from seven, which were submitted in competition for the decision of the committee. Sir Digby Mair, Bart., of Dagnam's Park, has offered some stained glass for the east window.

**FINES IMPOSED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF SEWERS.**—"A Barrister" writes as follows:—"A fine is said to have been imposed by the commissioners on a Mr. Mitchell, of Beresford-street, Newington, of 50*l.* I can find no such power of fining conferred on the commissioners by the new Act, or any such amount of fine mentioned. All fines for obstruction, &c., must be imposed by justices, and there is no mention that the fine was so imposed. The commissioners may be justices of the peace, but such a proceeding in such a case would be highly irregular, not to say illegal. My attention has been particularly called to the above report, and I have been asked for an explanation, which I am wholly unable to give. If you would therefore kindly point out the power under which the commissioners have acted you will oblige me."

\* \* We understand the fines were imposed under the powers of certain old Sewers' Acts, now about to expire.

**SANITARY PROGRESS.**—The inhabitants of Mile-end Old-town lately resolved to send a deputation to the Board of Health regarding the public nuisances at Bow-common.—At Chelmsford, the vestry committee and sub-committee are vigorously at work in cleansing the town, on peremptory notices, &c.—At March, in the Isle of Ely, some stir is being made to get completed the arching of a ditch into which great part of the off-scourings of the town are deposited.—At Gosport, a sanitary committee has been appointed.—At Winchester an impatience with the inefficiency of the committee there, and a determination to place the town under the new Sanitary Act, are being expressed.—The Board of Health having given the requisite power at Worcester, notice of the most vigorous measures for removal of nuisances has been issued, and not only the council, but the city commissioners and the board of guardians are all at work.—Inspectors have been appointed in All Saints and St. Andrew's, Newcastle, and the authorities are proceeding with energy and promptitude, in serving notices to some hundreds of owners of nuisances, and other parishes are following their example.—Notices are also being issued by wholesale at Hull, by the Sanitary Committee.—The constitution of the local board of health of Edinburgh is suspected to be illegal, the general board not being empowered by the new act to delegate their authority in Edinburgh.—At Glasgow, the police are daily compelling landlords, factors, and tenants, to cleanse their dirty wynds or lanes, and courts, &c.

**GILMOREHILL ESTATE COMPETITION, GLASGOW.**—The directors of the Gilmorehill company having offered premiums for the best plans for laying out their land for building, received, we are told, about 100 designs from 51 competitors. After consideration, they have awarded the first prize (30*l.*) to Mr. James Wyllson, architect, Glasgow. The second (20*l.*) to Mr. Gibson, London; and the third (10*l.*) to Mr. Andrew Macfarlane, Glasgow.

**PROVINCIAL.**—A college is about to be erected at Harlow.—A corn store lately fell at Poole quay.—The East Sussex magistrates are about to expend 25,000*l.* in the erection of a new prison.—The public baths and wash-houses of Manchester yielded, in year ending September 30, 1848, a surplus of 30*l.* after payment of rent, water, soap, gas, salaries, and other expenses.—The ordinary expenditure of the baths at Frederick-street, Liverpool, was 495*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, while the receipts were 387*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* At Paul-street the expenses were 973*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, while the receipts were 690*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* We see no notice of the amount expended in gratuitous bathing to the poor, says a local paper. If that be added to the receipts, it will be seen that the baths are not likely to be very burdensome to the corporate estate.—Nearly half the cast-iron water pipes intended to be laid as mains, in the streets of Liverpool, are stated to have burst when submitted to a proper test.

**ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC.**—A great lighting law-suit, between Morse, Kendal, and Co., and H. O'Reilly, is now being tried before the Federal Court at Frankfort, Kentucky. The case is one of the most important ever contended for in the United States. Morse, Kendal, and Co., contended for an exclusive monopoly of the principle of electro-magnetism in its application to telegraphing in the United States. O'Reilly's counsel resist the claim, asserting that a general principle like electro-magnetism cannot possibly be made the subject of a patent, even if the claimants had discovered the said general principle. Both sides have employed the ablest counsel, and no less than three telegraphs—Morse's instrument, the Columbian instrument, and the invention of Dr. Stierndiel, of Bavaria, have been put up in the court, for the purpose of explaining telegraphic operations.—*Boston Journal.*

**EXAMPLES OF ANCIENT PULPITS.**—Mr. Dollman's work on this subject is announced for publication in December. The completion of the series has been delayed till the best subjects that could be selected were obtained. The illustrations will include examples from Chester, Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton, and several interesting specimens from the counties of Gloucester, Somerset, and Devon.

**HYDRAULIC ENGINES.**—While pointing attention year before last (vol. iv., p. 539), and since, occasionally, to 'a new use for water-works,' we ventured to anticipate that the application of hydraulic power to the ordinary business of a town would open up a wide vista through which might be traced the indefinite outline of multiform uses for such a convenient power in the sphere of domestic as well as of business life. Now, whatever may have been the peculiar obstacles in the way of the practical working and adoption of so convenient and variously useful a power, as that which runs through our ordinary water pipes, we are pleased to observe not only the influence of a sustained determination in men of mechanical genius to overcome all such obstacles, whether in working or by way of prejudice or ignorance, but a re-echo of our own anticipations amongst writers most alive to future progress. An experimental engine, in the construction of which it is said that a difficulty hitherto experienced has been overcome, in the free discharge of water from the cylinder, has been made for the water company at Dundee, by Messrs. Steele and Sons, of the Lilybank Foundry there, and successfully set to work with a power equal to that of three men derived from the mere flow of a thin stream of water through an ordinary water-pipe. Neither preparation, risk, nor experience is requisite to set it a-going, the turning of a stop-cock being all that is necessary. A small machine of this kind has been set to work in a coffee-shop at Dundee, where it has been found to grind in a 'neat and efficient,' as well as economical and expeditious manner. One of the editors of *Chambers' Journal*, in describing another at Peebles, worked by the water running through a common leaden pipe, only an inch in bore, and pumping with the force of several men, remarks "How easy it would be to fit up machinery of this simple kind in cities—how inexpensive the power! A pipe of water introduced into a dwelling for domestic or other purposes might, in the first instance, be led to the top of the house, and made to turn a wheel in making its descent to the lower floors. The world has not yet awakened to hydraulics."

**COMPENSATION FOR LAND.**—On Friday week a special jury was empanelled at the Devonshire Hotel, Skipton, to assess the amount to be paid by the North-Western Railway Company to Miss Catherine Hardacre, and Mr. William Hardacre, for 2*a.* 0*r.* 24*p.* of land situate in the townships of Long Preston and Hellifield. The Company had made a formal tender of 710*l.* On behalf of the claimants, Mr. T. Statter, of Bury, agent to the Earl of Derby, valued the land and damages at 1,330*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. G. T. Lister, of Bradford, at 1,037*l.* 17*s.* 0*d.*; Mr. Daniel Seaton, of York, at 981*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; Mr. Ingram Walton, of Barrowford, at 1,283*l.* 3*s.* 0*d.* On behalf of the Company, Mr. W. Talbot, of Burton in Kendal, the land agent to the Company, valued the land and damages at 592*l.*; Mr. Hesketh, of Penrith, at 518*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*; Mr. J. Bradshaw, of Caton, near Lancaster, at 553*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*; Mr. Thos. Dodds, of Newton in the Willows, at 573*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*; Mr. W. Jackson, of Preston, at 598*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*; Mr. W. Hutchinson, of Orer Darwen, near Blackburn, at 569*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* The undersheriff charged the jury, who then retired, and after deliberating two hours returned a verdict for 791*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*

**INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS.**—The quarterly meeting was held at Birmingham on Wednesday week, when Mr. Robert Stephenson was elected president in place of his father, and papers by Mr. Scott Russell on their late president, by Mr. John Jones, of Bristol, "On the Adaptation of the Cambrian Engine to locomotive purposes," and by Mr. W. L. Kinmond, of Glasgow, "On the Railway Elevator," were read, and a discussion was held on Brockedon's patent India rubber joints.

**WANTED.**—The *Graham's Town Journal* says, "From Burgher's Dorp we have had complaints of the want of useful mechanics. A letter before us states, 'We want a blacksmith or two, some shoemakers, tailors, saddler, a carpenter, who could also copy a tin-smith, and a shopkeeper who could and would make decent candles.'"